

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
APRIL 9, 2007**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Chohany, Freiling, and Braxton. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Assistant City Manager Miller, Economic Development Director DeWitt, Assistant City Attorney Workman, and Department Heads Serra and Nester.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler invited citizen comment.

Dr. John Whitley, 710 Monumental Avenue, addressed Council about funding for the Center for Educational Opportunities. Education is an economic development proposition. All students need equal opportunity for an all day education. He asked that Council support the Women's Equality Amendment. Equality is an American value; sex discrimination should end.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

**BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS
OVERVIEW OF W/JCC FY08 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Denise Koch, Chair, W/JCC School Board

Gary Matthews, Superintendent of Schools

Scott Burckbuchler, CFO & Asst. Superintendent

Council members received the School Board's approved budget. Ms. Koch asked that City Council consider and support the 2007-2008 School Budget. The approved budget totals \$7,227,128 and will serve 10,400 children.

Mr. Matthews addressed three goals of the budget:

1. Address enrollment. There will be two new schools that will have a major impact on the budget.
2. Remain competitive in teacher salaries and benefits. Health insurance and Virginia Retirement System costs have increased.
3. Begin to phase in the Technology Plan. Some aspects of the plan have been postponed, but the new Matoaka and Warhill schools will be equipped for the new technology.

Mr. Burckbuchler presented Council with a copy of the "Executive Summary and Educational Plan" for the budget (attached). He noted the sections regarding the Five-Year Enrollment and Budget Projections, and the Base Budget Increases.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the members of the team for their presentation.

At the Mayor's request, Mr. Tuttle explained the process for funding the School Board's budget. After James City County completes its budget process, the city will be able to finalize its budget numbers. His recommendation was that City Council fund the School Board's request.

Mayor Zeidler said that it is challenging for the board to have two new schools and increased operating costs. Citizens want pre-school education for our children as well as the CEO program. Eastern State Hospital administration is willing to work with the schools to continue the CEO program there, and an additional \$330,000 would be needed for the installation of trailers on the site. She asked that the school board and administration look at the CIP budget to find a way to fund continuance of the CEO program.

Mr. Tuttle responded to Mr. Haulman that the city and county share information about their budget situations letter between administrators, during School Liaison Meetings, and during special meetings. Mr. Haulman stated he was concerned about CEO, characterization of the children in the program, and he hoped a viable solution would be found to serve all the children of our community.

Mr. Chohany understood the constraints of the school budget. In the case of CEO, he thought it could be more expensive not to fund the CEO in the long run. Children learn differently, but they must be provided for. Citizens are concerned about the program.

Mr. Braxton said he had received many calls about the CEO. While he understood the short term problems, he would like to see a long term strategy. He urged the school board members and superintendent to find a place for these children, now.

Mr. Freiling thanked the board members and school administration for all that they do for our community. We have a wonderful school system. He felt it appropriate to share the feelings of citizens he has heard from both the city and county. He asked that the School Board strongly consider reevaluating the budget, and look at the CEO and pre-K programs. The immediacy of the CEO issue has overtaken in priority the value and importance of pre-K. Residents of the community would like consideration given to these two efforts, not being part of a secondary option, but part of a primary budgeted function of the school system, built in from the base.

Dr. Koch responded that they would take Council's comments into consideration. This is an interesting, challenging year, and the board will try to serve all students in the best way they can within fiscal constraints. They will look at options for CEO and other things to serve the students in the best way possible.

The Mayor thanked the School Board members and administrative staff for the presentation and for answering questions. We are all proud of the School Division. Council wants all students to succeed and want the School Board to do everything it can within the limits of the budget. This is a difficult year.

Williamsburg Area Transport Update

Mark Rickards, Executive Director

Mr. Tuttle introduced Mr. Mark Rickards to provide a general update about the Williamsburg Area Transport Authority, and said that Ms. Miller, the city's WAT representative, will provide Council with the particulars on forming of the Authority at Thursday's meeting.

Mr. Rickards said Authority members will be the city, James City County, York County, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the College of Williamsburg. He addressed the following issues (Powerpoint slides attached):

- Legal documents involved
- Authority Member Board composition
- Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Why an Authority?
- Authority Board
- Transit Plan
- Staffing
- Funding
- WAT FY 08 Budget
- Maintenance and Operation
- Branding of the Organization
- Service Plans

Mr. Rickards said that the next step will be for all partners to ratify the agreement which will be effective July 1, 2007. An official signing ceremony is being planned. Colonial Williamsburg's bus employees will be brought into the Transit Authority. The result will be a transportation system that works for everybody.

Mayor Zeidler said that Council's goal was to have an easy and efficient way for people to get around without driving their cars.

Council members and Mr. Rickards discussed:

Increased ridership (international workers have heavily used the buses).

The composition of the seven member authority, the service area, and how it relates to funding.

Challenges to the new system: more frequent service, more routes, and the addition of trolley shuttle buses.

The Historic Shuttle service operated by CW and funded by the Federal budget Funding is available through 2009.

National Park Service's representation on the WAT board and funding sources.

Discontinuation of Boomerang service (HRT).

Plans for expanding transit service on Sundays year round. Summertime Sunday operation will be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Availability of maps at certain locations and on the Internet.

Connections to outlying areas.

Affordable fares. The summer an all-day pass is \$1.50; popular with students and visitors.

The use of hybrid buses/alternative fuels.

The different color schemes of the CW, WAT, and trolley buses.

Sources of future federal and state funding that will impact local funding.
Expanding visitor ridership to area attractions.
Consideration of using fare cards.

The Mayor and Council members appreciated Mr. Rickards' presentation.

Beautification Advisory Committee Update, David Kranbuehl, Chair

Mr. Kranbuehl, Council's representative to the Beautification Committee, introduced Ms. Karen Jamison, Co-Chair of the Beautification Committee for Jamestown 2007, a member and Past Chair of the city's Beautification Committee, and the new President of the Botanical Garden project. Mr. Kranbuehl said the beautification committee is a large, active group and he reviewed the membership list provided to Council. He recognized the efforts of Mr. Gordon Chappell, Al Brenick, Jason Roberts, Reed Nester, and Carolyn Murphy.

Mr. Kranbuehl and Ms. Jamison reviewed the five tasks the Beautification Committee would like to undertake.

Task #1: Develop a plan for plantings along Lafayette Street. Maps and a planting plan are being prepared.

Task #2: "Signature" plantings and color theme (red, white, and blue) for the 400th Commemoration. Noted were the locations around the city where there are beautiful flower beds. The committee has decided to expand existing flower beds in the city and add new ones, working with the city, Colonial Williamsburg, and the college.

Task #3: Williamsburg Master Gardeners have funded neighborhood grants for Skipwith and Highland Park sign planting improvements.

Task #4: The 2007 Host Committee is supporting a Beautification Awards Contest for red, white and blue anniversary gardens. The nomination form was provided to Council members. Awards will be given in all three jurisdictions.

Task #5: Update landscaping requirements for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Committee's draft and comments will be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Jamison thanked Council, Mr. Tuttle and his staff, for their commitment to beautification efforts and for their support.

Mr. Kranbuehl concluded that he hoped to have Council's funding support in the future. He felt that beautification efforts would have significant impact on our economy and return visitation to our city.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Kranbuehl and Ms. Jamison for the committee's report. All five projects have been well thought out. She recognized Ms. Jamison for her work and leadership in 1999 and with the commemoration.

Budget Update—Phil Serra, Director of Finance

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated April 5, 2007. Mr. Serra reviewed the revisions to the General Fund and Sales Tax Funds attached to the report. He noted there

was no change in the Utility Fund. City Council will hold its public hearing on the budget at the April 12 meeting.

Preview of April 12, Council Meeting

No additional information was requested.

City Council Communications

Leadership Historic Triangle PIPE Program: Council members and Ms. DeWitt discussed the indoor plumbing program. It was noted that the seven units identified in the city that were in need of assistance have already been improved. The LHT funds that are raised will be used as gap funding for the Housing Authority's indoor plumbing assistance program. Mr. Haulman said this is a great project. Ms. DeWitt said the class members of LHT recently dug a septic system for a home, working with Housing Partnerships. At the present time, the projects identified were not located in the city, but it was anticipated that a city resident may benefit from this program in the future. Ms. DeWitt noted that donors may stipulate their donation is to be used in a particular locality.

Neighborhood Council: Mr. Chohany reported that guest speaker Dan Aston gave a great presentation on the status of the High Street Development and mitigated any concerns expressed. His presentation was appreciated.

Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority: Mr. Haulman reported that board members are considering candidates for the position of director. He will have more details by Thursday's meeting.

Schedule of Meetings: April 2007

Council members received the monthly meeting calendar. May 5 is the opening day of the Farmers Market and date of the Redoubt Park dedication.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler invited public comment.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Approved: May 10, 2007

Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council